

Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached drawing sheet includes changes to FIGS. 7 which has been amended to include descriptive legends in each block.

REMARKS

Applicant acknowledges, with appreciation, the allowance of claims 1, 2, 5 and 6, as well as the indication that claims 3, 4 and 7-9 contain allowable subject matter. Claims 1-9 are pending, with claims 1 and 8 being the independent claims. Claims 3, 4 and 6-8 have been amended. The drawings have been amended. No new matter has been added. Reconsideration of the application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

In the Office Action mailed January 25, 2006, the Examiner required under 37 C.F.R. §1.72(b) that an Abstract on a separate sheet be filed (Office Action, page 2, paragraph 2). Applicants note that the present application is a U.S. national stage application of international stage PCT application No. PCT/FI99/00794, a published pamphlet version of which was included in the filing papers of this national stage application as WO 00/19760. The abstract appeared on the cover sheet of the published pamphlet version of the PCT application. As stated at §1893.03(e) of the MPEP (emphasis added):

When the international application is published as the pamphlet, the abstract is reproduced on the cover page of the publication, even though it appears on a separate sheet of the international application in accordance with PCT Rule 11.4(a). Thus the requirement of 37 C.F.R. §1.52(b) that the abstract “commence on a separate sheet” does not apply to the copy of the application (pamphlet) communicated to the designated Offices by the International Bureau under PCT Article 20. Accordingly, it is improper for the examiner of the U.S. national stage application to require the applicant to provide an abstract commencing on a separate sheet if the abstract does not appear on a separate sheet in the pamphlet. Unless the abstract is properly amended under the U.S. rules during national stage processing, the abstract that appears on the cover page of the pamphlet will be the abstract published by the USPTO under 35 U.S.C. §122(b) and in any U.S. patent issuing from the application.

Therefore, in the present national stage application, the filing of the original Abstract on a separate sheet is not necessary. Withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

The drawings were objected to by the Examiner. Specifically, the Examiner has stated, “Fig. 7 should be labeled with descriptive legends”. In response to this objection, Applicant has amended Fig. 7 to address this specific objection. Withdrawal of the objection is in order.

Claim 3, 4, 7-9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention. In response to this rejection, Applicant has amended the

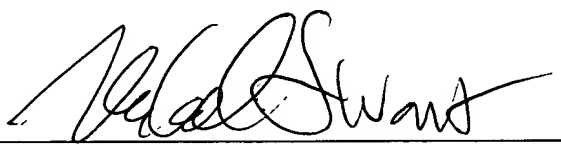
claims in a manner that is believed to address each specific rejection. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections are respectfully requested.

Applicant respectfully submits that this application is in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested.

It is believed that no fees or charges are required at this time in connection with the present application. However, if any fees or charges are required at this time, they may be charged to our Patent and Trademark Office Deposit Account No. 03-2412.

Respectfully submitted,

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